

Energy Lab. And with this focus on energy conservation, renewable energy and distributing energy in a way that is reliable, we will make this country more secure. And I am confident that the President is going to focus on it, as will we in the Congress.

FUNDING FOR OUR TROOPS

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, efforts to cut off funding for our troops in harm's way is simply unacceptable. It would be a devastating message to the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, their families and the families of our Nation's fallen heroes. No one knows this better than SAM JOHNSON, a true American hero, and I commend him on introducing H.R. 511.

It is time for the Democrats to say what they mean and mean what they say. They can't have it both ways. To vote to support troops in the field and then vote not to give them the resources needed to win can be deceptive, dangerous, and could put the lives of American servicemen and -women at even greater risk.

If the Democrat majority does not support the President's plan, they are in the majority, they need to put forth their plan that is in the interest of the American people, and they must also reflect upon the cost of failure. They must understand how high the stakes are in Iraq, both in terms of human life and global stability. Our failure in Iraq could cause the nation to become what Afghanistan once was, a breeding ground for terrorists. Let's work together and find freedom and security in Iraq.

THE STATE OF THE UNION

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker and my colleagues, the State of the Union?

Mr. President, we are on edge. The American public have said no to the war in Iraq and you have turned a deaf ear to this American admonition.

What does a troop escalation mean to American families?

More of our women and men, sons and daughters, brothers and sister, neighbors and friends will lose their lives or the life of someone they love, more families, such as the family of Operations Specialist Joseph Alomar, who gave his life in honor just this past week, and LCpl Nicholas Whyte, who gave his life this summer. More families, Mr. President, will be mourning. More of the American tax dollars will be spent on the war, rather than on building better schools, hospitals, roads and bridges.

Madam Speaker, in the 11th District of Brooklyn, New York, and in congress-

sional districts around the country, Americans want our troops home.

Mr. President, end this war in Iraq. Redeploy our troops now. We need our domestic tranquility.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I wanted to speak today about the debate on the war. And I have the honor of representing Fort Stewart, home of the Third Infantry Division, which is located in Hinesville and Savannah, Georgia.

This month the Third Infantry will start its third deployment to Iraq. And as they go over there, certainly they know what is going on in Washington in terms of the debate. But I think it is real important that we don't send a signal to our men and women in harm's way that what they are doing is irrelevant, that we can't win, and that because Bush might be a President whose policies aren't perfect that we need to withdraw.

In fact, I think what we should do is reaffirm on a bipartisan basis that we support the troops. We want to get them all the up-armored vehicles that they need, the Cougars, for example, blue tracking, the advanced night vision goggles. We should say on a bipartisan basis, we want to give them absolutely all the military hardware that they need to win the war. And then, in a separate debate, have the discussion of what an alternative is, where is the plan of the Bush critics and what is the price of pulling out. And I think we need to make that statement. And I am glad SAM JOHNSON is moving in that direction.

HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, we must seriously begin to address the problem of the Nation's uninsured and the skyrocketing price of health insurance.

Unfortunately, the plan the President is expected to outline tonight will do nothing to cut down on the number of uninsured because a tax deduction simply is not going to be enough to make insurance affordable to low and middle-income workers. In most cases, individual health plans are more expensive to purchase and provide considerably less coverage, but the Bush administration is under the false impression that their tax deduction will pro-

vide enough of an incentive for uninsured workers to sign up.

At the same time, the Bush administration falsely believes they can begin to target the cost of health care premiums by taxing employee-based health benefits. This is nothing more than a tax increase on middle-class workers who have been lucky enough to secure good benefits through their job. Quality health benefits provided by employers should be the norm; and as policymakers, we should not discourage it.

The President's proposal is a non-starter for me, Madam Speaker. But I am hopeful that I can work with the Bush administration to begin to solve some of our health care problems.

□ 1230

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 511

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to associate myself today with the words of my colleague, Mr. SAM JOHNSON from Texas, a Member who can probably speak more eloquently than any Member of Congress on the loneliness, the separation, the uncertainty that is war, and the need to know for such soldiers that the Nation is behind them and supports them.

I have had the honor to travel and visit our troops in Iraq, and I have had the opportunity to visit the troops when they have returned. And in each and every one of them, I have seen their commitment and determination to the completion of their mission.

I have also had the opportunity to be with parents who have lost a son or daughter in the war, to look them in the eye and to hug them during that time, and to be with other parents who were about to see their son and daughter go off to war, and to be with them during those uncertain times.

Madam Speaker, at this point in time, this Nation and this Congress must double its commitment to our troops to make sure that they know that we are behind them and support them for their eventual and soon safe return to their families.

STATE OF THE UNION DOES NOT SUPPORT THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, tonight the President will give the State of the Union Address. For Hispanics, the State of the Union Address is disappointing. The President has broken his promise on education and cut funding for programs at the expense of Hispanic children. He has failed to support the higher minimum wage, and forced nearly 3 million of our workers to struggle to feed their families.